



Consulate General of the United States of America

Press Release
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Jerusalem

For Immediate Release

U.S. Officials join Abu Dees Community in Celebrating Infra-Structure Improvements

U.S. Consul General Jacob Walles and USAID Acting Director for the West Bank and Gaza David Harden joined Abu Dees Mayor Ibrahim Jaffal and local dignitaries to celebrate the completion of a project to improve the City of Abu Dees. The improvements were part of city-wide rehabilitation efforts made possible by approximately \$144,000 of assistance provided to the municipal council by USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI). OTI's assistance allowed for the stone tiling of the Old City's alleys, installation of stone benches, repair of sidewalks, mounting of 100 street signs, painting of crosswalks, and the installation of new bus shelters near the university. The project which was designed in coordination with local leaders and residents, also drew on the energies and enthusiasm of 300 community volunteers who donated their time to work together with municipal technical specialists.

Speaking to the crowd of residents gathered for the day's celebrations, U.S. Consul General Walles noted that,

"This project beautifies the city and makes an important contribution to public safety. The community spirit that made these improvements possible, is the same kind civic involvement that will prove instrumental in building the institutions necessary to create a viable Palestinian state".

USAID/OTI will continue its assistance to Abu Dees as part of an overall \$25 million small grants program for communities in the West Bank and Gaza. To date, OTI has approved 134 grants that have made \$6,767,560 available to municipalities seeking to improve the daily lives of residents.

For more information please contact the U.S. Consulate's Press Office at 02-622-6908 or 02-622-6909 or Assistant Information Officer Christina Higgins at 054-678-8501.

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